

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, October 13, 1901

Twin Oaks Oct. 13 1901 My dear Alec,

How do you like this for a letter? It is Mamma's old type-writer, which she had when she was blind, and has not some improvements which the one I have been using has, and I miss them.

I was so glad to get your telegram last night. As I am staying here Florence had to telephone it out to me, and we had a funny time over it, for her reading powers are limited, and she tried spelling it out, first with one telephone, and then with the other. But finally we did make it out. Bert says that he has already made pretty sure of Mr Foster and that Mr Riis will lecture. That means Mr Roosevelt's interest. Then Marquis Iti will be here and he is going to see if Mr Foster wont help him to him. Andrew D. White is in this country now. I wish that you would write him. Get Daisy to compose the letter, she writes much more your style. Bert says no number of the Magazine has been so extensively noticed as the last. Charlie is coming to see me about the building this afternoon, and I think that things will go all right. They want to have a lot of ceremony about the corner-stone laying as an advertisement. I am thankful that you are not here it is warm muggy and oppressive really worse I think than a very hot dry day. I did such a stupid thing. I got the impression somehow that yesterday was Sunday, and so came right through by the early train yesterday instead of stopping in New York for some very necessary shopping as I would otherwise have done Then I wanted very much to see Ed. Almost the first thing that Mamma said was to ask if I had heard about Santos-Dumont's latest. I wanted to telegraph you the still later account of the unsuccessful attempt to circumnavigate the Eifel Tower, but Bert said that the Halifax Heald had the same telegraphic news as the Herald I am disgusted to find that all the rugs are down and curtains up in our house, I am going to

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have them taken up again, I cant stand them in this hot weather. Where did you row too and walk to for that matter? I want so much to know what you are doing with your kites. What is Mr Davidson going to do? I am going to see Mr Hornolower about putting in a elevator in our house. I think that it might be possible to have one on the outside with poles so that it will not be necessary to build an enclosed shaft. An elevator would be everything in our house, and especially this winter. The bathroom heater has been put up, and is a beauty, almost boiling hot water comes out at once.

Bert says wont you please write to Mr McGee, he feels really hurt that you have not answered his last letter asking you to take charge of the electrical exhibit or something in the Louisiana Purchase Exhibition. Please do it. He is a good friend, and your favorite mottoe you know is Do into others as you would that others do into you. And I dont think that you would like it very much if you had offered a friend what you thought was a compliment, and he took no notice of it. At the same time you might write to Mr Gilder!

I think that I am going to have the late President's cook. What do you say to that. She is colored.

Much love to my own little Daisy. Tell her that I have not seen any of the children except the boys as all are away, but that I went into Auntie's new room, which she wants it to be understood is not the ball-room, but which is big ger enough for a ban g q uet of a hunded covers.

I wouldnt make so many mistakes if I could see what I wrote but I cant I enclose as item for the young Ladies Club which I send by a for first reading

Ever yours

Twin Oaks Oct. 13th 1901 My dear Miss President,

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Perhaps the ladies may be interested in hearing what my mother has told me in regard to the way in which the news of the President's death was received in London, as I think that the personal accounts of people one knows are always the most interesting..

She says that during the time that he lay dying the streets in front of the bulletin boards were crowded by people standing waiting for the news, English as well as Americans, and it would be hard to say which seemed more interested and concerned. And when the news came shops were closed, and flags at half -mast, and black draperies on many buildings. Through the streets the people went quietly, and on all faces one saw the feeling of sorrow. All London in fact was mourning before the American Embassy had official news and could drop its flag..

When Thursday came the shops were closed for several hours, not only the Court but a great many of the people wore black, and the Churches where Memorial services were held were crammed. At St Paul's the sermon was most beautiful and touching and there was scarcely a dry eye in all that crowd. At Westminster too the sermon was very sympathetic. In the evening all the theatres except one, which elaborately explained that there was some clause in its charter that prevented, were closed. Many English friends wrote to my mother and sister condoling with them. Altogether my mother was very much touched by the evidences all around her of the sympathy and fellow feeling of the English people. She said that it was the most beautiful thing that she ever knew.

It is warm and muggy here and the trees are much more nearly brown than red. and altogether I like Baddeck better than Washington. I send my kindest regards through your ladies I am

Cordially Yours Mabel G Graham Bell